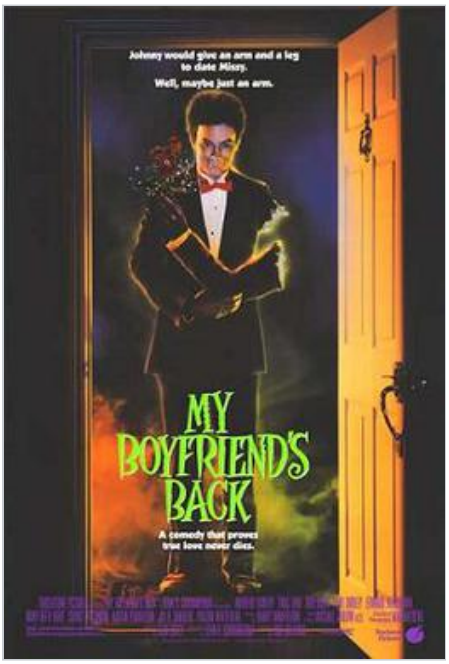
My Boyfriend's Back (film)

My Boyfriend's Back is a 1993 American zombie film directed by Bob Balaban which tells the story of Johnny Dingle (Andrew Lowery), a teenage boy who returns from the dead as a zombie to meet Missy McCloud (Traci Lind), the girl he's in love with, for a date. The film received negative reviews.

My Boyfriend's Back


Johnny would give an arm and a leg to date Missy.
Well, maybe just an arm.
MY BOYFRIEND'S BACK
A comedy that proves true love never dies.

Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Bob Balaban
Written by	Dean Lorey
Produced by	Sean S. Cunningham
Starring	Andrew Lowery Traci Lind Bob Dishy Paul Dooley

	Edward Herrmann Mary Beth Hurt Cloris Leachman Austin Pendleton Jay O. Sanders Paxton Whitehead
Cinematography	Mac Ahlberg
Edited by	Michael Jablow
Music by	Harry Manfredini
Production company	Touchstone Pictures[1]
Distributed by	Buena Vista Pictures Distribution[1]
Release date	August 6, 1993
Running time	84 minutes[1]

Country	United States[1]
Language	English
Budget	Less than $10 million[1]
Box office	$3.3 million (US)[2]

The film's title is a reference to the 1963 song of the same name by The Angels (which is used in the promotional trailers, but not featured in the film itself). The original title of the film, *Johnny Zombie*, was changed shortly before the film's theatrical release. Philip Seymour Hoffman, Matthew McConaughey, and

Matthew Fox appear in small roles in the film.

Plot

Johnny Dingle has been in love with Missy McCloud since they were kids. In his senior year of high school, he decides to fake a robbery at Missy's job with his best friend, Eddie. He hopes that by stopping the "robbery" he will impress her and she will go to the prom with him.

During the "robbery" a real robber holds Johnny and Missy at gunpoint. Thinking that the robber is Eddie, Johnny dies taking a bullet meant for Missy. After the

funeral, Johnny rises from the grave. He is greeted by Murray the gravedigger, who warns him that he can’t leave the cemetery. Johnny ignores him and goes back to his home.

Missy is hesitant to be around Johnny, but changes her mind when her boyfriend Buck and his dim-witted friend Chuck discriminate against him for being a Zombie. They go on a date, which goes well until Missy accidentally rips Johnny’s ear off.

Johnny goes to the town doctor, Dr. Bronson, who refers him to a woman

named Maggie, the widow of a zombie. She tells Johnny that he needs to eat the flesh of the living to stop decaying.

Johnny and Missy meet up at the library, where he’s attacked by Buck and Chuck. Chuck accidentally hits himself in the head with an ax and dies. Johnny eats Chuck's body, invoking the wrath of Chuck’s father, Big Chuck.

Missy’s father, the town sheriff, tells Johnny to leave town for his own safety. Johnny doesn’t listen and returns to Missy at night, but leaves when he bites her arm. He’s captured by Dr.Bronson, who

attempts to dissect Johnny and create a youth formula from his zombie cells. Johnny escapes when Big Chuck leads a mob to kill him, with Missy and Eddie helping him. He flees to the cemetery, where Murray, his parents, Eddie, and Missy defend him, earning him the town and the sheriff's acceptance. Johnny and Missy dance, but Johnny begins to decay and dies.

In Heaven, he's told by the gatekeeper that he was not meant to die in the robbery, and he is sent back the moment before the robber entered. The events replay but Johnny survives this time due to the bullet

hitting Missy's locket. Johnny and Missy go to the prom as a couple.

Cast

- Andrew Lowery as Johnny Dingle
- Traci Lind as Missy McCloud
- Danny Zorn as Eddie
- Edward Herrmann as Mr. Dingle
- Mary Beth Hurt as Mrs. Dingle
- Jay O. Sanders as Sheriff McCloud
- Libby Villari as Camille McCloud
- Matthew Fox as Buck Van Patten
- Philip Hoffman as Chuck Bronski
- Paul Dooley as Big Chuck

- Austin Pendleton as Dr. Bronson
- Bob Dishy as Murray the Gravedigger
- Cloris Leachman as Maggie the Zombie Expert
- Paxton Whitehead as Judge in Heaven
- Matthew McConaughey as Guy #2
- Renée Zellweger (scenes cut)

Production

Casting

This is the first film role for Matthew Fox and Matthew McConaughey. Renée Zellweger's only scene was cut from the film.[3]

Reception

Critical reception

Rotten Tomatoes, a review aggregator, reports that 13% of 23 surveyed critics gave the film a positive review; the average rating was 3.4/10.[4] *Variety* called it "an idiotic offbeat comedy" that "repeats ideas and jokes more effectively used in his 1989 *Parents*."[5] Stephen Holden of *The New York Times* wrote, "If *My Boyfriend's Back* is an irredeemably silly movie, it has an engaging lightness of tone and uniformly impeccable performances by a cast that maintains just the right attitude

of deadpan parody."[6] Kevin Thomas of the *Los Angeles Times* called it "an awful teen horror comedy" and said it "has a disastrous tone of sunny sitcom jauntiness" when it should have focused on dark satire.[7] Mark Caro of the *Chicago Tribune* wrote, "The movie is full of nonsensical plot twists, embarrassingly broad performances and unappealing characters." Caro criticized the casting of Lowery, calling his character "perhaps the least interesting movie zombie ever".[8] Jeff Shannon of the *Seattle Times* wrote, "Simply put, absolutely none of it works. The movie utterly fails to set a foundation for its dark fantasy, effectively turning

every character into a moron."[9] Ty Burr of *Entertainment Weekly* rated it "D" and compared it negatively to *Heathers*.[10] Academic Peter Dendle called it the best of the zombie romantic comedy films of the late 1980s and early 1990s but criticized its use of family-friendly themes as "cheesy" and "saccharine".[11]

Themes

Peter Dendle identifies the themes of the film as being standard teen film tropes. Dingle's urges to eat his date are a metaphor for teenage sexual activity, and his fear of decomposition is teenage

anxiety over acne. As a zombie, Dingle is discriminated against and ostracized, which is meant to show zombies as outsiders.[11]

See also

- List of zombie films

References

1. *"My Boyfriend's Back (1993)" (https://catalog.afi.com/Catalog/MovieDetails/59611)* . *AFI Catalog of Feature Films*. *Retrieved November 14, 2022.*

2. *"My Boyfriend's Back" (https://boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=myboyfriendsback.htm) . Box Office Mojo. Retrieved February 6, 2015.*
3. *Lovece, Frank (September 3, 2009). "Renee Zellweger talks about 'My One and Only'"" (https://web.archive.org/web/20090908183948/http://www.newsday.com/entertainment/movies/renee-zellweger-talks-about-my-one-and-only-1.1395879) . Newsday. Archived from the original (http://www.newsday.com/entertainment/movies/renee-zellweger-talks-about-my-one-and-only-1.1395879) on September 8, 2009.*

4. *"My Boyfriend's Back (1993)" (http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/my_boyfriends_back/)* . *Rotten Tomatoes*. *Retrieved August 12, 2022*.
5. *"Review: 'My Boyfriend's Back' " (https://variety.com/1992/film/reviews/my-boyfriend-s-back-1200431266/)* . *Variety*. *1993*. *Retrieved February 6, 2015*.
6. *Holden, Stephen (August 6, 1993)*. *"Review/Film; Prom Night Was Never Like This" (https://www.nytimes.com/1993/08/06/movies/review-film-prom-night-was-never-like-this.html)* . *The New York Times*. *Retrieved February 6, 2015*.

7. *Thomas, Kevin (August 6, 1993). "MOVIE REVIEW : 'My Boyfriend's Back': Buried in Sunny Sitcom Jauntiness" (http://articles.latimes.com/1993-08-06/entertainment/ca-20814_1_director-bob-balaban) . Los Angeles Times. Retrieved February 6, 2015.*
8. *Caro, Mark (August 8, 1993). "Grave Issue" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150206200345/http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1993-08-08/features/9308080325_1_grave-issue-movie-andrew-lowery) . Chicago Tribune. Archived from the original (http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1993-08-08/features/9308080325_1_grave-issue-movie-andrew-lowery) on February 6, 2015. Retrieved February 6, 2015.*

9. *Shannon, Jeff (August 6, 1993). "Putrid Humor Is Shameless In 'My Boyfriend's Back' " (http://community.seattletimes.nwsource.com/archive/?date=19930806&slug=1714640) . Seattle Times. Retrieved February 6, 2015.*
10. *Burr, Ty (August 20, 1993). "My Boyfriend's Back" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150206200454/https://ew.com/article/1993/08/20/my-boyfriends-back/) . Entertainment Weekly. Archived from the original (http://www.ew.com/article/1993/08/20/my-boyfriends-back) on February 6, 2015. Retrieved February 6, 2015.*
11. *Dendle, Peter (2001). The Zombie Movie Encyclopedia. McFarland & Company. pp. 113–114. ISBN 978-0-7864-9288-6.*

External links

Wikiquote has quotations related to ***My Boyfriend's Back (film)***.

- *My Boyfriend's Back* (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0107626/) at IMDb
- *My Boyfriend's Back* (https://www.boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=myboyfriendsback.htm) at Box Office Mojo
- *My Boyfriend's Back* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/my_boyfriends_back) at Rotten Tomatoes

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